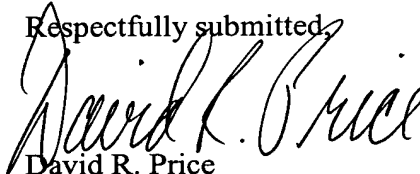


**Remarks**

This preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from the claims to conform to U.S. practice and to add an Abstract. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of this amendment prior to calculation of the claim fees.

If a conference call would be useful in resolving issues arising from the filing of this communication, please contact the undersigned at the below-noted number.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Price  
Reg. No. 31,557

Docket No. 011462-9003-00

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